



City Council Regular

13.

Meeting Date: 08/20/2013

Subject: Update on Gate Closure Located on Crane Street Near 133rd Avenue

From: Tim Himmer, Public Works Director

INTRODUCTION

Staff has been investigating the gate closure that was installed on Crane Street NW in 2008, just south of 133rd Avenue NW. The gate appears to have been installed following completion of WEXFORD VILLAS, as the remainder of the WEXFORD development was being planned, over neighborhood speeding and cut through traffic concerns. Crane Street in this location is signed "emergency vehicles only" and the gate is closed approximately half the year; only being open in the winter to aid in snow clearing activities.

DISCUSSION

Crane Street is a local roadway that is approximately 28' wide and is centered in a 50' right-of-way (ROW), with no pedestrian amenities. Avocet Street is a State Aid collector roadway that is approximately 32' wide and centered in a 60' ROW, with a sidewalk along the east side. The intersection of Avocet and 133rd is constructed in such a way as to eliminate the opportunity to take a northbound right turn onto eastbound 133rd Avenue; this construction appears to result in drivers detouring over to Crane Street so they can make the right turn on 133rd heading to the compost site. Attached are minutes from the May 20, 2008 Council meeting that outline the options considered at that time, and the discussion surrounding the installation of the gate on Crane Street and the Avocet intersection design at 133rd.

This spring staff was slow to close the gate in this location, which led to a few phone calls from concerned citizens asking about the timing to get it closed. Staff began doing some research to better understand the history of this gate, and why we would be limiting use of a public roadway. This led to several conversations with members of the WEXFORD VILLAS home owners association, and ultimately a vote among all homeowners within this development. The property management company for the association conducted a survey of its residents; which showed that 35 desire to have the roadway open all year, 8 prefer to have it closed all year, 5 requested it remain as is (open in winter only), and 1 wanted nothing to do with the survey.

RECOMMENDATION

The City Council is being asked to consider this new information from the association that lobbied for the gate in the first place, and consider whether it is still warranted. There is a general concern from staff's perspective with limiting use of a public roadway and the precedence this may set for other neighborhoods with similar speeding and cut through traffic concerns. Staff is seeking direction from the Council on how they would like to proceed with this particular gate.

Attachments

[Location Map](#)

[Area Map](#)

[May 20, 2008 Council Minutes](#)
